

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1386 (Frederick County Delegation)  
Economic Matters

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Frederick County - Alcoholic Beverages - Wine Sampling or Tasting

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This bill alters the restriction that a maximum of six bottles of wine may be opened at any one time at a wine sampling or tasting event by allowing all of the bottles in a wine preservation system that the Frederick County Board of License Commissioners approves to be opened at a wine sampling or tasting event in Frederick County. Additionally, no more than six other bottles of wine may be opened by a holder of a solicitor's permit, the holder of the beer and wine sampling or tasting (BWST) license, or an employee of the license holder. A single individual may not consume more than six ounces of wine from all brands in a single day. The Frederick County Board of License Commissioners must adopt regulations to carry out the provisions related to the BWST license.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2014.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** None. The bill does not directly affect local governmental finances. The Frederick County Board of License Commissioners can adopt regulations and enforce the bill with existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal. BWST license holders that store opened wine bottles in wine preservation systems benefit by not having to dispose of those bottles if six other bottles of wine are open at a wine sampling or tasting event.

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## Analysis

**Current Law:** The Frederick County Board of License Commissioners may issue a BWST license to a Class A (off-sale) license holder. The annual license fee is \$200. A single individual may not be allowed to consume for sampling or tasting purposes more than one ounce of a given brand of light wine and not more than three ounces of a given brand of beer. A maximum of six bottles of wine may be opened at any one time. Once opened, each bottle used for the beer and wine sampling or tasting event must be marked to be used for that purpose only. The contents of each bottle may not be mixed with the contents of another bottle and all bottles must be destroyed once they are empty.

**Background:** There are 90 Class A licenses in Frederick County, 37 of which have BWST licenses.

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### Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** SB 1033 (Senators Brinkley and Young) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

**Information Source(s):** Frederick County, Comptroller's Office, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 12, 2014  
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